

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6437

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1810

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, AFSP, ABLD, ACOM

SUBJECT: OFFICE SPACE, MONTREAL

REF: OTTAWA 1751

1. IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL I REFERRED TO ZONING RESTRICTION IMPOSED BY QUEBEC LAW. AS AMPLIFICATION, LAW PROVIDES PROTECTION OF ALL IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WHOSE PERIMETER IS WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED FEET OF A QUOTE CULTURAL PROPERTY END QUOTE. OUR PRESENT OFFICE BUILDINGS ARE SO AFFECTED AS THE HOUSE AT 1517 MCGREGOR HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A CULTURAL PROPERTY. THE CULTURAL PROPERTY ACT FURTHER PROVIDES THAT NO AFFECTED PROPERTY CAN BE DESTROYED, ALTERED OR CHANGED IN ANY WAY WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE AFTER APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION.

2. THE CONSUL GENERAL, MONTREAL RAISED THE QUESTION WITH THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE OF THE USG'S CONSTRUCTING AN OFFICE BUILDING ON OUR PRESENT MCGREGOR SITE AND WAS ADVISED HE COULD NOT GIVE AN OPINION ON WHETHER OR NOT APPROVAL WOULD BE GRANTED UNTIL HE HAD RECEIVED A DETAILED SET OF THE BUILDING PLANS AND HAD SUBMITTED THEM TO THE COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE SUCH PLANS DO
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NOT AT PRESENT EXIST AND OBVIOUSLY THE ENTIRE PRO-

CEDURE WOULD TAKE MANY MONTHS IF NOT A YEAR OR TWO TO
DEVELOP AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE MINISTER FOR
CULTURE GRANTING APPROVAL IS VERY QUESTIONABLE.

3. THE IMPORTANT AND URGENT PROBLEM IS NOT WHAT
SHOULD HAPPEN TO OUR PRESENT SITE (SEE PARA 4 OF
REFTEL), BUT TO MOVE OUT OF A TOTALLY INADEQUATE
AND MAINTENANCE-MONEY CONSUMING BUILDING AND LEASE
SUITABLE SPACE THAT IS AVAILABLE NOW.
PORTER

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